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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/761,761	01/21/2004	Stephanic Marie Law	06005/39297	2885

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EXAMINER

KRISHNAMURTHY, RAMESH

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3753

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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05/08/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/761,761

Applicant(s)

LAW, STEPHANIE MARIE

Examiner

Ramesh Krishnamurthy

Art Unit

3753

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 February 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 3 - 6, 8 - 10 and 14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 3 - 6, 8 - 10 and 14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 07 August 2006 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

This office action is responsive to communications filed February 13, 2007.

Claims 1, 3 – 6 and 8 – 10 and 14 are pending.

1. The previously indicated allowability of claims 6, 8 – 10 and 14 is withdrawn in view of the rejections set forth below.
2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1, 3 – 6, 8 – 10 and 14 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Zlokovitz (US 5,047,965) in view of Yonnet (GB 2 252 848 A).

Zlokovitz discloses a pressure loaded pilot valve system (Fig. 1, for example) comprising a pressure loaded pilot valve (12) coupled to a regulator valve (11) that is connecting an inlet line (13) and outlet line (14), the pilot valve having a spring (24) that determines the set point of the system and a control pressure applied to the pilot valve assembly that opens the pilot valve as the fluid pressure i.e. control pressure (applied via (28)) increases. A servo control assembly (29) is disclosed that includes an electronic control unit (41). A pressure sensor (45) is connected to the loading line (28). It is noted that Zlokovitz discloses a spring to close configuration (Col. 3, lines 28 – 36 and also Col.

The patent to Zlokovitz discloses the claimed invention with the exception of explicitly disclosing an exhaust line carrying exhaust fluid from the servo control assembly to the outlet line.

Yonnet '848 discloses a gas supply pressure control apparatus that comprises an exhaust line (11) carrying exhaust fluid from the servo control assembly (28) to the outlet line (10) for the purpose of minimizing any possible contamination of the atmosphere.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have provided in Zlokovitz an exhaust line (11) carrying exhaust fluid from the servo control assembly to the outlet line for the purpose of minimizing any possible contamination of the atmosphere, as evident from Yonnet'848.

It is further noted that Yonnet'848 discloses a supply solenoid valve (56) and an exhaust solenoid valve (58) that are controllable by a controller (37, 54). Yonnet'848 discloses (Page 15, lines 13 – 16) that valves (56, 58) could be any known electrically actuated valve which here is taken to include the well-known solenoid valves (see, for example, Watanabe et al. (US 6,338,358) that shows solenoid valves (24, 26) used as supply and exhaust valves associated with a pilot valve (22)).

Response to Arguments

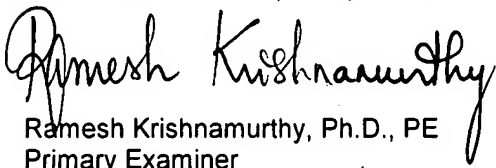
Applicant's arguments with respect to claims rejected above have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ramesh Krishnamurthy whose telephone number is (571) 272 – 4914. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday from 10:00 AM to 6:30 PM.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Eric Keasel, can be reached on (571) 272 – 4929. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273 – 8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Ramesh Krishnamurthy". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter of each name being capitalized and prominent.

Ramesh Krishnamurthy, Ph.D., PE
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3753